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Invasive Plants

and Their Effects on Public and Private Lands

Many plant species that are not native to Tennessee add beauty and variety to our gardens. A very small number of these species have become highly invasive and destructive in our environment. Many natural controls, such as diseases and insects, that normally kept them "in check" in their homeland do not exist or are not as effective here. This gives invasive plants an advantage, making it easy for them to take over the habitat of other plants. These plant invasions affect the native wildlife and insects, too. The balance and diversity of our environment will decline as these invasive plants continue to spread, affecting all species that live here.

Pictured in this brochure are some of the invasive plants in Tennessee. Managers of private lands and our parks and forests are spending millions of dollars trying to control the spread of these plants. This is a monumental task, especially on public land, and is complicated by infestations from surrounding land. We need your help if we are to effectively control invasive plants and maintain a balanced, healthy environment for the future. For alternative plant species that are not invasive, please talk to your local arboretum, botanical garden, or nursery. Also, visit the Tennessee Invasive Plant Council at www.tnipc.org.

Cover image:

Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*)

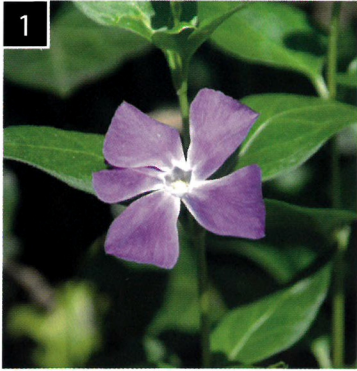
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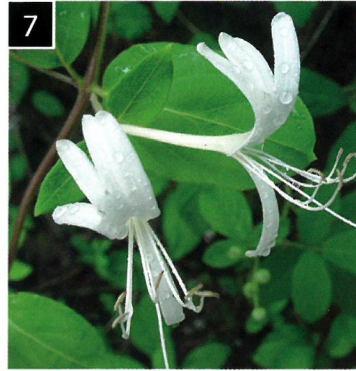
Herbs and Grasses

1. Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)
2. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
3. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
4. Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*)
5. Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
6. Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)



Vines

7. Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
8. Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
9. Winter creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)
10. Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
11. English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
12. Chinese yam (*Dioscorea opposita*)

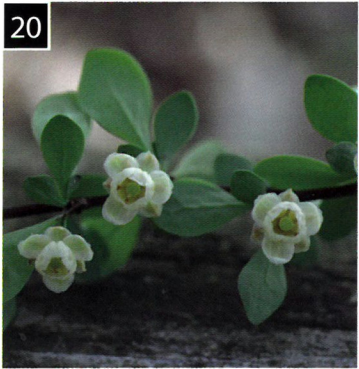


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Shrubs

13. Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)
14. Mahonia (*Berberis bealei*)
15. Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
16. Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)
17. Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
18. Japanese spiraea (*Spiraea japonica*)
19. Sacred bamboo (*Nandina domestica*)
20. Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Trees

21. Princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)
22. Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*)
23. Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)
24. Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



Photo credit:

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What can you do?

- Consider not planting the species pictured in this brochure, especially if you live near natural areas such as federal, state, or private parks and forests. These species pose a significant threat to the health, balance, and vitality of our native plants and animals.
- Practice invasive plant control on your own property by eradicating these species or preventing their fruit production by continued pruning and/or cutting.
- Promote responsible gardening practices by learning about and using plants that are not invasive. Consider using some of the American counterparts to the common invading species. For instance, the American species of the honeysuckle, wisteria, and bittersweet vines are great garden plants.
- Scrutinize the growth habits of the species you plant. If you choose a rapidly growing plant and/or a plant that produces many seeds, watch out for sprouts or seedlings appearing near your "mother" plant. Be prepared to maintain control of your plantings.
- Buy nursery-propagated plant material from reliable growers. If the identity of the plants you buy is in question, seek the advice of other experts.
- Consider incorporating regionally native plants in your garden. Natives will help sustain the natural balance that has developed between regional wildlife and plants over thousands of years. Maximize your success by matching the right plant to the right site conditions, and combine plants that occur in natural habitats.

Want to learn more?

Visit the Tennessee Invasive Plant Council website:

www.tnipc.org

Join us on: Twitter (@TNIPC) and Facebook (/TNIPC)

On the TN-IPC website, you will find information on the following:

- A full list of invasive plants in Tennessee, their threat level, identification tips, and management options
- Homeowners' guide, "Invasive Plant Management Guide"
- How to report invasive species using EDDMapS, and how that helps track the spread of invasives
- Events and educational opportunities
- Gardening alternatives that use native plants
- Helpful links for further information and other great organizations
- Membership information

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This brochure is a revision of the
Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere brochure
"Invasive Plants and Their Effects on Natural Areas"

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